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**In this edition:  
Medicare Prescription Drug,  
Improvement, and Modernization  
Act of 2003**

## Sully District e-Newsletter

Beginning January 1, 2006, the Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173) expands the Medicare program to include prescription drug coverage.

Beneficiaries who enroll in this plan, called Medicare Part D, will pay a monthly premium and a part of the cost of their prescriptions. Under this prescription drug plan, Medicare beneficiaries with a limited income and resources may qualify for assistance in paying for their monthly premiums, deductibles, and co-payments. The Social Security Administration will be mailing an *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Cost* (Form SSA-1020) to millions of Medicare beneficiaries who appear to be eligible for this assistance.

### **How to apply for assistance:**

If a person has received or does receive this form, they should complete and return it to the Social Security Administration as soon as possible. If they do not receive an application in the mail or want to obtain one right away, they can get an application by calling Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or by going to the Social Security Administration office. Applications are also available online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church can also apply at any Department of Family Services office, contact 703-324-7500 for more information.

### **To enroll in Medicare Part D:**

- Review the *Medicare & You 2006* handbook (Call 1-800-633-4227 to order a copy or go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov))
- Read about the prescription drug plans available in the area (information about prescription plans will be available starting October 2005)

- Contact the plan of their choice to enroll (**enrollment in Part D for eligible individuals begins November 15, 2005 until May 15, 2006**)

**The following resources may be helpful in choosing a plan:**

- [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
- 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY 1-877-486-2048
- Call Department of Family Services' Area Agency on Aging's Virginia Insurance Counseling Assistance Program at 703-324-5851

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have any additional questions or need additional information.



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